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GOVERNMENT STATISTICIAN, BRISBANE.

BULLETIN NO. 25 OF 1949.

PERSONS RECEIVING UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT, MARCH, 1949.

This bulletin has been prepared from preliminary tabulations, made available each month by the Commonwealth Statistician, of unemployed persons in Queensland who were in receipt of Commonwealth unemployment benefit at the end of March, 1949. The information covers only those persons actually in receipt of unemployment benefit, no account being taken of those whose applications for benefit were awaiting consideration or those who did not apply for benefit. The figures given, therefore, are only a part of total unemployment, although the proportions due to the various causes and in the various industries are broadly applicable to the total. Persons receiving sickness or special benefits are also excluded. Details for districts by causes and industries in which last employed are given in the attached tables.

Comparison with Previous Months.

March 1949 figures of persons in receipt of unemployment benefit were 1,987 males and 55 females, the total of 2,042 being 4,323, or 68 per cent., below the corresponding figure for the previous March, which, however, was affected by the State-wide railway strike which began during February, 1948.

<u>End of Month.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
		<u>1947.</u>			<u>1948.</u>	
April	4,698	149	4,847	2,669	110	2,779
May	3,935	151	4,086	1,559	89	1,648
June	3,102	129	3,231	1,102	71	1,173
July	2,747	113	2,860	718	67	785
August	2,089	97	2,186	702	64	766
September ..	1,912	87	1,999	640	67	707
October	1,827	80	1,907	700	62	762
November ..	1,664	70	1,734	793	67	860
December ..	2,245	69	2,314	1,205	58	1,263
		<u>1948.</u>			<u>1949.</u>	
January	3,094	73	3,167	1,668	46	1,714
February	5,603	223	5,826	1,980	52	2,032
March	6,055	310	6,365	1,987	55	2,042

The total for March showed little change compared with February, which is usually the peak month of the year. Increases in seasonal unemployment in the Mackay, Bundaberg, and Townsville districts were offset by the re-absorption of temporarily displaced meatworkers in the Rockhampton district. Warwick has had no person drawing benefit since August, 1948, and five other districts none since September, 1948. Three of these districts - Ayr, Ingham, and Charters Towers - had 605, 208, and 124 persons, respectively, drawing benefit at the end of March, 1948.

Causes of unemployment are given on the next page for the months of March, 1948, and February and March, 1949, together with the decrease during the twelve months ended March, 1949, for each cause.

Compared with February, five of the eleven causes showed larger numbers, but the only noteworthy increase was in "Casual Work" which was higher by 54. "Establishment Closed, Reduction of Staff", and "Seasonal Work and Weather Conditions" each showed a decrease of 31.

Compared with figures of a year earlier (March, 1948), all causes showed decreases, the largest of which were in "Shortage of Materials" (1,167), "Discharged or Laid-off for Other Reasons" (825), "Establishment Closed, Reduction of Staff" (392), "Seasonal Work and Weather Conditions" (964), and "Casual Work" (486). The first three of these decreases were due to the effects last year of the railway strike.

<u>Cause of Unemployment.</u>	<u>March,</u> <u>1948.</u>	<u>February,</u> <u>1949.</u>	<u>March,</u> <u>1949.</u>	<u>Decrease Mar.,</u> <u>1948, to</u> <u>Mar., 1949.</u>
Medical unfitness for particular type of work, work too heavy, etc.	25	2	2	23
Inefficiency, incompetence ..	53	20	24	29
Establishment closed, reduction of staff, permanent retrenchment	543	182	151	392
Replaced by re-instated serviceman	35	13	16	19
Shortage of materials	1,190	35	23	1,167
Seasonal work and weather conditions	2,158	1,225	1,194	964
Casual work	751	211	265	486
Discharged or laid-off for other reasons	893	70	68	825
Quitted because work too heavy, medically unfit, etc. ..	378	152	177	201
Quitted for other reasons ..	218	83	79	139
Not previously employed ..	121	39	43	78
<u>Total</u>	<u>6,365</u>	<u>2,032</u>	<u>2,042</u>	<u>4,323</u>

The following statement shows, for each district, (i) the numbers of persons drawing benefit in the month of 1946-47 with the highest number, and in the corresponding month of 1947-48 - in some districts this was not the month with the highest unemployment in 1947-48 on account of the disturbance caused to normal seasonal trends by the railway strike, (ii) the numbers in March, 1948, and February and March, 1949, and (iii) the decrease from March, 1948, to March, 1949.

<u>District.</u>	<u>Month.</u>	<u>(i)</u> <u>Peak Level of</u> <u>Unemployment.</u>		<u>(ii)</u> <u>Month of -</u>			<u>(iii)</u> <u>Decrease</u>
		<u>1946-47.</u>	<u>1947-48.</u>	<u>March,</u> <u>1948.</u>	<u>February,</u> <u>1949.</u>	<u>March,</u> <u>1949.</u>	<u>Mar., 1948, to</u> <u>Mar., 1949.</u>
Brisbane ..	Feb.	2,065	1,003	1,011	208	223	788
Ipswich ..	Dec.	190	22	76	12	8	68
Gympie ..	Feb.	30	136	34	7	7	27
Maryborough	Jan.	221	49	281	55	56	225
Bundaberg ..	Jan.	596	57	280	99	155	125
Toowoomba ..	Feb.	177	206	70	30	31	39
Warwick ..	Dec.	42	32	11	-	-	11
Roma ..	Dec.	24	8	8	-	-	8
Charleville	Dec.	75	34	9	3	3	6
Rockhampton	Jan.	1,462	482	1,278	354	145	1,133
Emerald ..	Jan.	10	6	18	-	-	18
Longreach ..	Dec.	117	78	17	5	5	12
Mackay ..	Mar.	861	784	784	250	342	442
Ayr ..	Feb.	233	356	605	-	-	605
Townsville..	Mar.	616	739	739	657	706	33
Ingham ..	Mar.	440	208	208	-	-	208
Innisfail ..	Mar.	368	311	311	154	169	142
Cairns ..	Mar.	599	416	416	164	159	257
Charters Towers ..	Feb.	182	179	124	-	-	124
Atherton ..	Mar.	78	78	78	34	32	46
Hughenden ..	Feb.	52	17	7	-	1	6
<u>Total State</u>	<u>Feb.</u>	<u>7,592</u>	<u>5,826</u>	<u>6,365</u>	<u>2,032</u>	<u>2,042</u>	<u>4,323</u>

Compared with February, the most noteworthy district changes were increases in Mackay, 92 (37 per cent.), Bundaberg, 56 (57 per cent.), and Townsville, 49 (7 per cent.), and a decrease in Rockhampton of 209 (59 per cent.).

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Table No. 1 - Persons Receiving Unemployment Benefit, Queensland, March, 1949.Districts and Causes of Unemployment.

District.	Discharged or Laid-Off.								Quitted.		Not previously employed.	Total.	
	Medical unfitness for particular type of work, work too heavy, etc.	Inefficiency, incompetence.	Establishment closed, reduction of staff, permanent retrenchment.	Replaced by re-instated serviceman, relieving worker only.	Shortage of materials.	Seasonal work and weather conditions.	Casual work.	Discharged or laid-off for other reasons.	Medical unfitness, work too heavy, medical advice.	Quitted for other reasons.		Number.	Per 10,000 population.
Brisbane ..	-	10	30	2	4	18	57	20	56	14	12	223	
Ipswich ..	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	2	1	1	1	8	
Moreton ..	-	10	31	2	4	19	58	22	57	15	13	231	4
Gympie ..	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	3	1	-	7	
Maryborough ..	1	2	6	2	2	18	8	4	8	4	1	56	
Bundaberg ..	-	2	7	-	3	94	14	4	22	7	2	155	
S.E.Coastal	1	5	13	2	6	113	22	8	33	12	3	218	19
Toowoomba ..	-	-	2	2	2	2	4	3	11	4	1	31	
Warwick ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Roma ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Charleville	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	3	
Downs & S.W.	-	-	2	2	2	4	4	3	11	5	1	34	2
Rockhampton	-	2	17	2	2	71	15	13	11	8	4	145	
Emerald ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Longreach ..	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	1	-	-	5	
Central ..	-	2	17	2	2	75	15	13	12	8	4	150	15
Mackay ..	-	2	3	2	-	267	36	3	16	7	6	342	
Ayr ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Townsville..	-	3	58	5	6	451	103	12	35	21	12	706	
Ingham ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Innisfail ..	-	1	3	1	2	143	4	2	10	2	1	169	
Cairns ..	1	1	20	-	1	113	8	4	3	5	3	159	
N.Coastal..	1	7	84	8	9	974	151	21	64	35	22	1,376	91
Charters Towers ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Atherton ..	-	-	4	-	-	8	15	1	-	4	-	32	
Hughenden ..	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	
North-West	-	-	4	-	-	9	15	1	-	4	-	33	7
Total State	2	24	151	16	23	1,194	265	68	177	79	43	2,042	18

Table No. 2 - Persons Receiving Unemployment Benefit, Queensland, March, 1949.Districts and Industries.

District.	Industry in Which Last Engaged.														Total.
	Agricultural, Pastoral, and Dairying.	Other Primary (including Mining).	Engineering.	Food and Drink Factories.	Other Factories.	Building and Construction.	Shipping and Wharf Work.	Transport.	Wholesale.	Retail.	Previously Employed by Australian or Allied Services.	Personal and Domestic Service.	Discharged Serviceman.	Other Industries.	
Brisbane ..	18	6	13	27	25	14	11	8	30	17	4	22	4	24	223
Ipswich ..	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	2	8
Moreton ..	19	8	13	27	25	14	11	8	31	19	4	22	4	26	231
Gympie ..	-	2	1	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Maryborough ..	8	1	1	11	3	11	-	2	1	7	-	6	-	5	56
Bundaberg ..	58	3	1	50	11	12	2	1	2	4	-	5	-	6	155
S.E.Coastal	66	6	3	63	15	24	2	3	3	11	-	11	-	11	218
Toowoomba ..	3	-	2	3	2	6	-	-	3	3	3	3	-	3	31
Warwick ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Roma ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Charleville	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Downs & S.W.	6	-	2	3	2	6	-	-	3	3	3	3	-	3	34
Rockhampton	5	4	4	77	8	23	2	3	2	5	-	3	-	9	145
Emerald ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Longreach ..	4	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Central ..	9	4	4	77	9	23	2	3	2	5	-	3	-	9	150
Mackay ..	193	9	1	84	10	26	1	4	3	-	-	6	-	5	342
Ayr ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Townsville..	254	21	2	227	30	83	6	13	11	17	4	22	-	16	706
Ingham ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Innisfail ..	121	1	1	26	-	12	1	-	1	1	-	2	-	3	169
Cairns ..	102	3	-	17	9	11	1	2	5	-	-	3	-	6	159
N.Coastal	670	34	4	354	49	132	9	19	20	18	4	33	-	30	1,376
Charters Towers ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Atherton ..	5	4	1	6	3	10	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	32
Hughenden ..	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
North-West	6	4	1	6	3	10	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	33
Total State	776	56	27	530	103	209	24	34	59	56	11	74	4	79	2,042

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